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Grace A. Woolson

EMILY HITCHCOCK TERRY

A woman of marked ability, and perhaps of equally marked peculiarities, was Miss Grace A. Woolson, of Pittsford, Vermont, whose death occurred during this past summer. She was an ardent lover of nature, of botany especially, though she took great delight in all plant and animal life. We never saw her at the meetings of the Vermont Botanical Club, of which she was a member, but she did not forget or ignore them, always demanding the fullest particulars of the proceedings from those who had been present. Her greatest work was in the culture of ferns, to which she devoted much time and energy. Her garden also, where one found the choicest vegetables and very beautiful flowers, gave abundant evidence of care and wise forethought.

She contributed many articles to *Country Life*, as well as to many scientific periodicals and to newspapers. Her best work was put into her little book entitled *Ferns and How to Grow Them*. This gives very complete instruction in regard to their care and cultivation and is beautifully illustrated by photographs taken by her fellow townsman, Dr. Swift, who in the midst of a very arduous medical practice was always ready to "take pictures" for her. Her fern garden was most interesting and beautiful, containing all species found in the vicinity, as well as many others sent her from other localities. Her house was profusely decorated with these dainty plants which she always had growing in all manner of receptacles, from ordinary flower pots to dainty glass dishes. Here one saw the very rare *Asplenium ebenoides*, which she found in two or three places near her home, and rarest of all, the hybrid between the *Asplenium Trichomanes* and *A. Ruta-muraria*, never found in this coun-

try by any one else and, in Switzerland, by only one German botanist. The finding of this hybrid was assuredly her greatest botanical achievement. I remember well her delight when she discovered growing by her doorstep the rare hybrid *Aspidium pittsfordense*, which had been produced naturally. It certainly seemed as if things of botanica interest gravitated toward her.

To those who knew Miss Woolson, no estimate of her life would be complete without a mention of her pet tree-toads, which she kept for many years and which she had trained to perform several little feats; and of her cats, which were to her almost human personalities and which responded to her devotion in a manner that made them appear to belong to a superior race of felines.

Miss Woolson was born in Pittsford, Vt., on the 17th of October 1856. She was graduated at the High School in Springfield, Vt., and at Kimball Union Academy, at Meriden, N. H. She taught for several years in the vicinity of Pittsford, but failing health compelled her to abandon that profession. Her love of nature induced her to enter upon the more scientific work, to which she devoted herself until the time of her death, June 23, 1911.

NORTHAMPTON, MASS.

Notes and news

In connection with a study of the local distribution of some of the common North American Ferns, Prof. E. J. Winslow, Auburndale, Mass., would appreciate any information sent him on the distribution of the ebony spleenwort, including definite descriptions of the localities personally observed by the sender. Of special interest will be reports on any considerable areas within its range where this fern has not been found, and reports from the frontiers of its range (Maine, northern New Hampshire